5/1/74

Dear Harold,

I hope I'm not messing up any of your plans, or being a bother, but I'm in the midst of some experiences now which will make it impossible for me to come down this Monday, 5/6. Perhaps later in the week, perhaps even the next Monday, the 13th.

The first thing is that about 2 months ago I found a stray dog that I decided to keep. At the time I really liked her and thought I was prepared to make the commitment that keeping her would entail. I've already shelled out about $40 to clear up the misc. maladies she picked up as a stray. She's a smart dog, and proving to be harder to train (or tame) than I expected. Also, the degree of commitment is far greater than I anticipated, and I have just come to realize that I am not emotionally prepared now to give her all the attention and love she needs. So, I have decided to give her away, and today I begin trying to find a home for her. I don't know how long it will take, but I doubt if everything will be settled by Monday.

In addition to the dog problem, I am at the beginning of a love "problem" which needs some time to settle and which would also make it difficult for me to be away next week. This was something I had not anticipated at all when I spoke to you, but it has happened, and I'd like to see it more resolved, otherwise I may not be in too good a condition to travel.

And, of course, there is my thesis! I still hope to have it completed by the end of this week, but the way things have been going I've been XXXXXX encountering numerous delays and distractions. So, there is a chance that I will need a few days next week to finish the conclusion to the thesis.

Why don't you drop me a note telling me when in the next two weeks I could come down, and I'll get in touch with you as soon as I can make some progress through this morass that I'm currently in. A great many things have happened at once, and fortunately most of them promise quick resolution--but right now they are a tremendous drain on my time and emotions.

And don't worry. This only makes me want to come down more, for I will truly need the rest and relaxation, and I look forward to seeing you and Lil again.

Best,

Howard